(c) whether Government are monitoring such health missions of States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Some States have expressed a desire increased Government of India funding to strengthen their primary health infrastructure under the proposed National Rural Health Mission.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The proposal to launch National Rural Health Mission is under the consideration of the Government.

Vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals

1693. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a break through has reportedly been found in keeping vaccine potent in sugarbox/crystals;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) M/s Panacea Biotech Limited have entered into an agreement with M/s Cambridge Biostability Ltd., U.K., for developing a stable vaccine product based on a new technology which mimics a natural phenomenon, wherein some organisms are able to survive in dried-up form for hundred of years (anhydrohiosis). In this technology water within the cell is replaced with a sugar solution the thickens when water is excluded to a point of solidifying as a glass and the organisms dries out. Cells are kept in a state of suspended animation until re-hydration occurs and (the organism-plant, animal or bacteria) returns to life. The process is being applied for first time to vaccines. The vaccine is first spray-dried using the sugar syrup to form microscopic glass spheres. The dry vaccine is then suspended in an approved inert liquid, which can be injected into muscle where bodily fluids reactivates the vaccine. The trial of the vaccine prepared by this process is yet to begin.

Statement

Prevalence of Blindness and Estimated Number of Blind Persons in India

State/UT Code	India/State/ Union Territory	Census Population (2001)	Annual Growth Rate*	Estimated Population 2004	Prevalence of Blindness	Estimated Blind Persons (in lakh)
1.	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	356265	2.39	381809	0.67	0.03
2.	Andhra Pradesh	75727541	1.30	78680915	1.50	11.80
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	1091117	2.33	1167386	1.23	0.14
4.	Assam	26638407	1.73	28020940	1.34	3.75
5.	Bihar	82878796	2.50	89094706	0.78	6.95
6.	Chandigarh	900914	3.39	992537	1.89	0.19
7.	Chhattisgarh	20795956	1.66	21831595	1.61	3.51
8.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	220451	4.65	251204	1.07	0.03
9.	Daman and Diu	158059	4.42	179018	1.07	0.02
10.	Delhi	13782976	3.81	15358370	0.63	0.97
11.	Goa	1343998	1.39	1400043	2.03	0.28
12.	Gujarat	50596992	2.03	53678349	1.07	5.74
13.	Haryana	21082989	2.47	22645238	1.13	2.56
14.	Himachal Pradesh	6077248	1.62	6372602	0.70	0.45
15.	Jammu and Kashmir	10069917	2.55	10840266	1.61	1.75
16.	Jharkhand	26909428	2.09	28596649	0.78	2.23

17.	Karnataka	52733958	1.59	55249368	1.78	9.83
18.	Kerala	31838619	0.90	32698262	0.56	1.83
19.	Lakshadweep	60595	1.59	63485	0.89	0.01
20.	Madhya Pradesh	60385118	2.18	64334305	1.16	7.46
21.	Maharashtra	96752247	2.04	102673485	0.95	9.75
22.	Manipur	2388634	2.63	2577097	0.65	0.17
23.	Meghalaya	2306069	2.62	2487326	0.22	0.05
24.	Mizoram	891058	2.56	959491	0.65	0.06
25.	Nagaland	1988636	4.97	2285142	0.38	0.09
26.	Orissa	36706920	1.48	38336707	1.40	5.37
27.	Pondicherry	973829	1.87	1028461	0.78	0.08
28.	Punjab	24289296	1.80	25600918	1.01	2.59
29.	Rajasthan	56473122	2.49	60691664	1.55	9.41
30.	Sikkim	540493	2.85	586705	0.45	0.03
31.	Tamil Nadu	62110839	1.06	64085964	0.78	5.00
32.	Tripura	3191168	1.46	3330941	1.18	0.39
33.	Uttar Pradesh	166052859	2.30	177510506	0.94	16.69
34.	Uttaranchal	8479562	1.76	8927283	0.56	0.50
35.	West Bengal	80221171	1.64	84168053	1.19	10.02
	INDIA	1027015247	1.93	1087086789	1.10	119.72
*Census of India 2001						
	Male	531277078	1.93	562038021	0.91	51.15
	Famale	495738169	1.93	524441409	1.29	67.65